GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2844
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
CLOSURE OF SAW MILLS
Bishnoi Shri Jaswant Singh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a)Whether some saw mills have been closed in Rajasthan;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the impact of closure of saw mills on handicrafts industry in Rajasthan;

(c) Whether quantum of exports have decreased on account of this; and

(d) If so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government to put in order the said saw mills?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)&(b) : The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), New Delhi has reported that they have received representations from various Association of Artisans and Exporters about the closure of un-licensed saw mills thereby affecting thousands of artisans and their families. However, no specific survey has been carried out to assess the number and its impact on handicrafts sector.

(c) : Quantum wise and State-wise export data is not maintained. However the data on value of handicraft exports is maintained for the country as a whole. The export of wooden handicrafts has been showing an increasing trend which can be seen from the export figures registered during the last three years from the country including the State of Rajasthan:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Years	Export of wooden handicrafts
1	2003-04	Rs.609.07
2	2004-05	Rs.721.18
3	2005-06	Rs.853.06

(d) : Based on the representations received from the Association of Artisans and Exporters, the issue for exemption of Saw Mills (up to 24") from the definition of Saw Mill has been taken up with Central Empowered Committee.